

Attendance

Connectional Table Minutes Absent:

February 23, 2022

Belles Sarah V

Present (V indicates Voting Member):

Aguila Pete V

Alsted Christian V

Arroyo Giovanni

Birch Ole V

Calentine Raggatha Rain V

Campbell Jeffrey V

Cleaver III Emanuel V

Coles Amy V

Deere Josephine V

DeVine Jerome V

Dharmaraj Jacob V

Dreff Ashley V

Dyck Sally V

Fernandes Roland

Graves Gary

Henry-Crowe Susan

Jones Beverly V

Kenaston Judi V

King Rick

Kitete Prosper V

Kumar Moses

Malone Tracy S. V

Meekins William V

Milford Brian

Murphy Tonya V

Nuckols Dave V

Oglesby Dennis V

Olson Harriett V

Perez Lyssette V

Prudente Karen V

Simpson Kim V

Slaughter Mike V

Swanson James V

Tuitahi Monalisa V

Wiggins Hare Dawn

Zürcher Stefan V

Bergquist Greg

Brown Shareka V

Francisco Ciriaco V

Gatdula Venus Mae V

Hendren Andrew

Jen Mike Dio V

Jung Hee-Soo V

Jung Markus V

McKee Michael V

Moore-Koikoi Cynthia V

Nelson Kenneth V

Nhambiu-Penicela BeneditaV

Schol John V

Scott Robin V

Staff:

Bigham-Tsai Kennetha

Hopkins Kacie

Killian Grace

Roberts Frances

Guests:

Ahler Sheila

Arguello Kimberly (Iron Peacock)

Clark Krysta (Iron Peacock) Dodson

Christine

Gable Dena

Hahn Heather (UMNews) Hill

John

Isabelle Berger (Interpreter)

Isaura Aurez (Interpreter)

Jamieson Janet

Jones Dale

Mai Danny

Moy Elaine

Neiderland Lynne

Ough Bishop

Ruffle Tammie

Ward Karen

Summary of Action Items

II.b. The Minutes of the CT from November 17, 2021 were approved.

VI.a. Changes in CT membership proposed by LDCL were approved.

VI.a. Removals by members' requests was approved.

VI.a. The addition of Karen Prudente to the Budget Advisory Committee, Budget Allocations Team and the World Service Contingency Fund Committee was approved.

VI.a. Update on Whistleblower Protection Policy was approved.

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Connectional Table was called to order at 8:04am CST-US.

I. Opening Remarks and Devotional

Connectional Table (CT) Chair, Bishop Christian Alsted, opened the meeting by welcoming GAEM Committee members to the meeting and former CT Chair Bishop Bruce Ough. He then recognized the passing of our fellow CT member and leader the Rev. Dr. Brad Brady; offering words of thanks for Brad's faithfulness in life, ministry and to the Connectional Table and the United Methodist Church. Chair Alsted went on to share about the people of Ukraine and those across northern and eastern Europe as they faced threats of invasion from Russia. The invasion began the day after this meeting. Prayers were offered for the church, Europe and the world.

II. Opening Business

- a. Chair Alsted reminded that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of taking minutes and will be deleted when the minutes are approved. Chief Connectional Ministries Officer (CCMO) Kennetha Bigham-Tsai stated that a quorum had not been established. Chair Alsted revised his previous statement on recording the meeting, allowing that the recording of the portions of the meeting on which those absent voting members absent could listen to the meeting for a vote to be held later.
- b. The meeting Agenda was approved.
- c. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting was postponed.
- d. New CT members Ragghi Calentine of the Native American International Caucus (NAIC) (replacing Cynthia Kent) and Andy Hendren of Wespeth (replacing Barbara Boigegrain) were announced.

III. Technology and CT Voting Members Instructions

CT Board Engagement Coordinator Grace Killian requested voting members include the area they represent and reviewed how to use the various functions on ZOOM.

IV. Chief Connectional Ministries Officer Updates

CCMO Bigham-Tsai, noting Philippians 4:8, reported that the CT is keeping its focus on the mission of the church through:

- a. Regional conversations on identity, vision, mission and connectionalism
- b. Tuesdays at the Table
- c. COVID Vaccine Equity and development of a committee to lead in this area.
- d. Council of Bishop's "A Narrative for the Continuing United Methodist Church"
- e. United Methodist Communications launch of #BeUMC
- f. CT Membership Make Up Task Force
- g. Budget
- h. Making Disciples
- i. Ongoing commitment of the CT in light of delayed General Conference.

V. CT Make Up Task Force

- a. Task Force Co-Chair Amy Coles reported on the Task Force's work including:

- i. The goal of helping the CT to be less United States centric and more missional.
- ii. Feedback on the proposal information sheet distributed prior to the meeting.
- iii. There is not a proposal to be presented at today's meeting.
- iv. A final proposal may be ready for the May meeting. The CT is requested to send concerns about the proposal prior to that time so that we won't need to make amendments to what is brought to the CT at that time. To send a concern, simply email to connectionaltable@umc.org and request that be forwarded to the Task Force.

Karen Prudente emphasized the need for balance of age, disability, racial, gender, laity, clergy balance in the proposal.

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VI. Leadership Discernment and Community Life (LDCL)

Amy Coles, vice-chair of LDCL, reported on the following:

- a. LDCL has met with the CT Staff and commended them for their excellent work. The Staff

met in retreat February 8, 2022 utilizing Strength Finders to utilize and enhance their work together. The next retreat will be April 18.

Items to vote on will be sent by email which we can do according to our By-Laws.

The following persons to be voted on include:

- Replacement of Native American International Caucus (NAIC) representative Cynthia Kent by Ragghi Calentine.
- Replacement of Barbara Boigegrain by Andy Hendren.
- Removal by Request by Michelle Hettmann, Marianne Niesen Lathem Postell, Miller Wilbourn.
 - Karen Prudente was nominated to the following groups CT related groups previously filled by Brad Brady:
 1. Budget Advisory Committee
 2. Budget Allocations Team
 3. World Service Contingency Fund Committee

b. Whistleblower Protection Policy Update

- i. Confidential has replaced anonymous in the policy to be voted upon.

c. Connectional Table Engagement Ideas

Grace Killian shared the following as ways to become more engaged:

- i. Identity, Vision, Mission and Connectionalism Videos to be posted on social media.
- ii. Hometown photos and prayers for social media.
- iii. Coffee and conversation.

A brief break was announced.

Meeting resumed

VII. Quadrennial Budget Proposal

- a. CCMO Bigham-Tsai shared slides related to the meeting of the Budget Allocations Team and thanked the Team members. Bigham-Tsai reviewed the mandates as to task and guiding values. Also presented were allocation projections by GCFA for 2023-2026,

reduced from previous allocations. The current proposal is for the years 2023 and 2024 only. Bigham-Tsai noted that our recommendations for allocations include no changes from the Advanced Daily Christian Advocate (ADCA) previously submitted.

Note: At this point in the meeting a quorum was established.

See the Slide Show Presentation for more detail on the recommendations proposed.

There was discussion about the report including concern that CT is the only group recommending an increase in funding and the “optics” it presents. Dave Nuckols responded by clarifying the process used for making the decision.

Dave Nuckols made the following motion on behalf of the CT Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee moves that the CT accept the Budget Allocations Team recommendations for allocations for 2023-2024, per GCFA projections for World Service, the WSCF, AU, MEF, BCF, ICF, CCTF, and YCI as follows (note references to the ADCA refer to 2 Section I, p. 431 of the 2020 Advanced Daily Christian Advocate):

- Interpretation Resources remains at the same annualized dollar amount reflected in the ADCA, and remain a fixed charge of World Service.
- The Connectional Table be restored to 2017-20 funding levels, which represents a 5.9% restoration of a previous decrease reflected in the ADCA in dollar amounts, and remains a fixed charge of World Service.
- GCORR (including the Minority Self Determination Fund), COSROW, United Methodist Men, and the Ethnic Plans (KMP, NACP, SBC, PINP, NPHLM and AALM) remain at the same annualized dollar amounts reflected in the ADCA, and be treated as temporary fixed charges of World Service for 2023-2024 only.
- MEF, Africa University, CCTF, BCF, the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, and the WSCF remain at the same annualized dollar amounts reflected in the ADCA, and remain on-ration.
- Funding for YCI be sunset with a 100% reduction from what is reflected in the ADCA.
- DM, GBGM, GBHEM, GBCS, and UMCOM each reduced by 14% in dollar amounts from what is reflected in the ADCA, and remain on-ration charges of World Service.

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Motion: Kim Simpson moved that the Connectional Table funding level be a 0% increase in 2023-24.

Chair Alsted called for discussion of the amendment.

Bishop Malone asked: How will this amendment hinder the work of the CT?

Bigham-Tsai shared that the biggest impact would be to have no in-person meetings or the ability to maintain the three current CT staff positions.

Call for Vote: Chair Alsted called for a vote on the amendment by raise of hand.

Action: The amendment was not approved.

The original motion was again before the CT.

Call for Vote: Chair Alsted called for a vote on the motion by raise of hand.

Action: The motion was approved.

This action will be sent to the GAEM Committee of GCFA and brought to the Joint CT GCFA meeting in May for a vote.

VIII. Votes on items presented previously in the meeting. Each of the following items were votes upon separately and preceded by Chair Alsted calling for a vote by raise of hand. The following actions were taken:

- a. The Minutes from the November 17, 2021 were approved.
- b. LDCL - CT membership replacements for NAIC rep. Cynthia Kent by Ragghi Calentine and Wespeth rep. Baraba Boige grain by Andy Hendren were approved.
- c. LDCL – Four member requests for removal from the CT were approved.
- d. LDCL – Request that Karen Prudente be added to the World Service Contingency Fund (WSCF), the Budget Advisory Committee and the Budget Allocations Team (BALT) was approved.
- e. LDCL – The Whistle Blower Policy was approved.

IX. Upcoming meetings for the CT at this time are: May 19, 2022 (online) and at General Conference August 29-Sept. 6 in Minnesota.

X. Closing Prayer was given by Jacob Dharmaraj.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:55am.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary